

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 160

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Marvin W. Barker for
laudable service to higher education in
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding leaders who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marvin W. Barker is one such estimable person who has enjoyed a distinguished career in higher education, having served with probity as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Tennessee Technological University for seventeen years, the last ten of which he has also held the distinction of Provost; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barker earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and a master's degree from Duke University; he went on to obtain a Doctorate in Organic Chemistry also from Duke University; and

WHEREAS, his astute leadership at Tennessee Tech, especially in times of crisis, has allowed the university to consistently maintain the highest quality in its undergraduate and graduate educational programs; Dr. Barker's effective administration has guided TTU to prosperous heights even as the school experienced five budget reductions in the last nine years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barker and the team of leaders who report to his office have encouraged an environment of mutual trust and open communication; during TTU's last accreditation visit, the regional accrediting agency commended the institution on its shared governance and two-way communication; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Technological University has been a leader in the assessment of student outcomes for almost fifteen years and continues to rival the University of Tennessee

for state-wide leadership, having received top marks from the Tennessee Board of Regents on the state report card that evaluates the six senior educational institutions for quality and productivity; and

WHEREAS, focusing on its existing strengths to meet the new educational needs of its students, TTU, under the esteemed leadership of Dr. Barker, has added several degree programs, options, and emphasis areas, which have led to an increase in overall growth and a significant increase in freshman enrollment; and

WHEREAS, through aggressive development efforts at Tennessee Tech, the College of Business Administration has developed two major computer laboratories for its students and one two-way real time ITV classroom; the College of Education has received gifts to establish its 21st century classrooms in each of its departments and a one million dollar endowment to maintain the systems; the College of Engineering has received computing and other equipment; and the College of Arts and Sciences has received an endowment to establish the annual Stonecipher Symposium, which explores interactions of technology and the humanities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barker has been extensively involved in a variety of service activities related to the university system and the TTU campus, including membership on task forces for budget and outcome measures; screening committees for faculty, chairpersons, deans, vice chancellors, and chancellor; promotion and tenure committees, budget committees, building committees, curriculum committees, a faculty senate, and an academic council; and

WHEREAS, his professional service includes elected positions as a section officer of the American Chemical Society, an officer of a state academy of sciences, and reviewer for referred journals, research proposals, the Annenberg/CPB project, and books; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barker contributes his time and numerous talents to the United Way, a local school board, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, and the United Methodist Church where he has held local and conference positions; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Dr. Barker is the recipient of a cornucopia of awards and honors for his outstanding achievements, including Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Pi Mu Epsilon, Sigma Xi, Beta Gamma Sigma, and honorary membership of Phi Eta Sigma; he has also been named a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists,

received the Commander's Award for Public Service presented by the Department of the Army, the MSU Alumni Award for Research, and he is listed in several biographical references; and

WHEREAS, professional accomplishments aside, Marvin Barker is the loving husband of the former Alice Fay Clark, and the proud father of Amy and John; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Barker exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community, and the dedication to professional excellence that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, he epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated University Provost who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Marvin W. Barker on his exceptional service to higher education in Tennessee as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Tennessee Technological University, and wish him continued success in all of his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.